

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

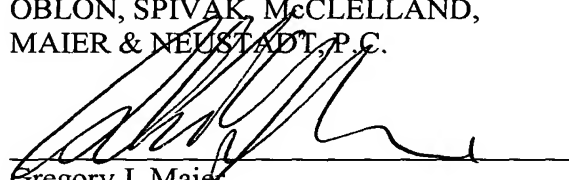
Claims 1-5 and 17-19 are presently active in this application, Claims 6-16 having been canceled, Claims 4 and 5 having been amended, and Claims 17-19 having been added by way of the present Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to remove their multiple dependencies and Claims 17-19 have been added based on original Claims 4 and 5. Hence, no new matter has been added thereby.

Examination on the merits of Claims 1-5 and 17-19 and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

Akihiro Yamazaki  
Registration No. 46,155

GJM/AY:mda  
I:\ATTY\AKY\24s\242019\PREAME.DOC